

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 217555
ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

S E C R E T STATE 217555

EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, NPG, NATO

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 13 NPG CONSULTATIONS PRESS POLICY
HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS
REF: USNATO 08660

1. WE AGREE THAT QUESTION OF A PRESS RELEASE IS AN
ISSUE THAT CAN ONLY BE RESOLVED WITH THE OTHER NPG
MEMBERS. ISSUE SHOULD BE DECIDED FORMALLY AT THE
SEPTEMBER 13 NPG MEETING; BUT APPROPRIATE PRIOR CON-
SULTATIONS WITH LUNS AND OTHER ALLIES AT THE MISSION'S
DISCRETION ARE ADVISABLE.

2. WE WOULD JOIN A CONSENSUS ON PRESS POLICY ANYWHERE
IN THE RANGE FROM AVOIDING ANY KIND OF PUBLICITY AT
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THIS TIME, UP TO A VERY SHORT PRESS RELEASE WHICH
STATES THE FACT THAT THE MEETING TOOK PLACE WITH A
DELEGATION FROM THE UNITED STATES IN ATTENDANCE AND THAT
CONSULTATIONS INCLUDED DISCUSSION OF THE ER WEAPONS.

3. OUR PREFERENCE WOULD BE TOWARD THE LESS FORTHCOMING
END OF THIS NARROW SPECTRUM, I.E., NO STATEMENT. BUT

IF A CONSENSUS AMONG OTHERS SHOULD DEVELOP THAT DISCUSSION OF WEAPONS SHOULD BE MENTIONED, WE WOULD WANT THE STATEMENT ALSO TO REFLECT THAT A TRUE CONSULTATION TOOK PLACE AND THAT THE UNITED STATES IS SEEKING THE VIEWS OF ALLIES AS INPUT TO A DECISION WHICH HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN.

4. THUS, WE COULD IF NECESSARY GO AS FAR AS A PRESS RELEASE USING JUST THE FIRST TWO LINES SUGGESTED BY THE MISSION. WE WOULD INVERT THE FIRST SENTENCE TO READ THAT A MEETING OF THE NATO NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP TOOK PLACE WITH A DELEGATION FROM THE UNITED STATES IN ATTENDANCE.

5. WE DO NOT SEE THE NEED FOR REFLECTING APPRECIATION FOR THE US PRESENTATION, BUT WOULD NOT OBJECT.

6. WE SEE NO NEED FOR NAMES OF MEMBERS OF THE US DELEGATION BUT IF OTHERS INSIST, YOU SHOULD LIST ONLY SENIOR DOD, STATE AND NSC NAMES IN THAT ORDER (I.E. MCGIFFERT, GOMPERT, THOMSON).

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 10-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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